

## BIBLIOTEKE VIR NIE-BLANKES

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OKTOBER 1937

No. 2

# SUID - AFRIKAANSE BIBLIOTEKE

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# SUID-AFRIKAANSE BIBLIOTHEKE

Die Offisiële Orgaan van die Suid-Afrikaanse Biblioteekvereniging

Deel 5

Oktober — 1937

No. 2

## LIBRARY FACILITIES FOR NON-EUROPEANS IN DURBAN AND DISTRICT

*By*

MAURICE WEBB,

*Chairman, Carnegie Non-European Library Service, Natal*

The exclusion of the Non-Europeans from the Public Library service became absolute when the Durban Municipal Library became free in April, 1937. Previously Non-Europeans were not debarred by law from becoming subscribers, although with one or two special individual exceptions they were excluded. The bye-laws of the new 'free' Library limits it to Europeans only.

Excluded from the Public Library service, the Non-European enjoys certain library facilities that have developed or are being created. The foremost of these is the Carnegie Non-European Library Service.

### CARNEGIE NON-EUROPEAN LIBRARY SERVICE

The South African Library Conference held in Bloemfontein in 1928, after discussing the question of library facilities for Non-Europeans, resolved that "adequate library provision should be made for the Non-European sections of the population", and recommended that :—

1. The services be organized and financed as part of the general library service of the Union, and be free.
2. Wherever desirable, the central library system distribute books for use by Non-Europeans through its local centres.
3. Such local centres be responsible for supplying these books to those special agencies (e.g., schools, churches, social centres) that undertake to provide reading facilities for Non-Europeans.
4. In rural areas Non-European schools serve as library centres being supplied with boxes of books by the local library centre of the central library system; the books so supplied to include books in the chief vernacular of the district.

5. School inspectors be asked to assist in organizing and supervising the rural library facilities.
6. One or more field officers be appointed as soon as possible to develop these Non-European services.

In order that these recommendations of the Library Conference might be put into immediate effect, at least in part, the Carnegie Corporation made available a sum of £3,000 for the whole Union, to be applied for and administered provincially.

Natal was the first of the provinces to apply for one of these grants. A meeting convened by Dr. Loram, then Superintendent of Education in Natal, was held in Durban in April, 1929, to consider the offer made by the Carnegie Corporation of £500 for the purchase of books for the use of Non-Europeans in Natal.

As the outcome of this meeting it was decided :—

1. To accept this grant of £500.  
Since the main condition of the grant stipulated that the whole sum should be spent upon the provision of books, it was agreed that the Education Department of the province should be requested to make provision for the supply of book-boxes, and for their transport to and from approved distributing centres.
2. That schools and training institutions should, at the outset, be the distributing centres.  
That the books should be sent in wooden boxes designed to hold about sixty books each ; and that the books should be primarily for the reading of the scholars in schools and training institutions. That each box should include, in addition to suitable books in English, a number of books in the vernacular (Zulu).
3. That the administration of the service should be undertaken by the Durban Municipal Library.
4. That the service should be entirely free, unhampered by any system of deposits or guarantees.

It was further decided that the service should be administered experimentally at the outset, and of the twenty institutions selected as suitable depots, ten were finally chosen upon the definite understanding that the number of depots should be increased as seemed expedient.

Mr. Franklin Rooke, the Durban Municipal Librarian, undertook the secretaryship of the Committee of Management and the actual administration of the Library was undertaken by Miss M. C. Hewitt, who was then librarian of the Municipal Juvenile Library.



Book-boxes were supplied, together with warrants for free railage by the Natal Education Department, and in September, 1931, the first ten institutions to receive supplies of books received their first consignments. After six years the service is still in operation: in all 18 institutions serving the Bantu, Indian, and Coloured communities are in regular receipt of book-boxes, and the book issues through the service are approximately 10,000 a year. While the Service makes books available to a considerable section of the Non-European population it could not be said to make that "adequate library provision" that was intended by the resolution of the 1928 Conference, nor has it resulted in that growing interest in, and demand for books that would be the clear mark of its success.

After this service had been in operation for some time it became apparent that while consignments of books were gratefully received, and, in due course, were returned in good condition, signs of effective use, either in the appearance of the books themselves or in the awakened interest of readers, were lacking. This led to an investigation into the reading interest of Non-European groups in and around Durban and the operation of the service. A report of this investigation was issued in 1933 which contained the following conclusions and recommendations :—

#### *Conclusions*

"As a result of this inquiry two general conclusions have been reached:—

1. As far as the Indians are concerned, there is already in existence an eager demand for the service that is offered. The reading habit is already formed, but owing to poverty and the absence of free lending library facilities, is not able to develop adequately. Reading is at present restricted to those books that can be bought in very cheap editions, or to cheap periodicals and newspapers. The whole of the Carnegie grant made for the purchase of books in Durban (£500) could easily be used in providing books for the Indian community and there is no reason to believe that were it so spent it would not be utilised to good advantage.

The condition among the Indians is similar to that of any literate European community of poor circumstances, prior to the provision of free library services.

2. On the other hand, the Native has not yet acquired the reading habit. This has been found to be true of children and of adults, of students and teachers. We have found few if any exceptions. If the Non-European Library Service can awaken in the Native people a desire to read and a capacity for enjoyment in reading it will accomplish much, but this is no light task.

We offer the following as being among the reasons for the almost complete absence of the reading habit among Natives :

- (a) Lack of early association with books. Native children do not imitate the reading of their elders. Most Native children see books for the first time as the "class" readers in their schools.
- (b) The school "readers" used are often of poor quality and lacking in real interest. The pupils are often kept at the same reader over a long period of time and so do not early acquire the impression of a large and varied store of reading matter available. The reason for this is often that the school or the scholars are too poor to avail themselves of the variety of school readers that are obtainable. School readers are not supplied free as in European schools — they have to be bought at a cost of from 9d. to 2/6d. a book.
- (c) The absence of the whole idea of reading as a leisure time occupation and often the lack of any opportunity for leisure reading.
- (d) Lack of time. The time-tables of schools and training colleges afford insufficient time for the cultivation of the habit of recreational reading.
- (e) Preoccupation with examinations. Native students are often greatly preoccupied with the importance of securing examination passes in the shortest possible time. The reason for this is mainly economic. They regard with disfavour any reading that does not have direct bearing upon the coming examination.
- (f) Lack of a utility value in reading. In many cases we find that Natives desire to read so that they may be able to understand letters which they receive from their homes. Beyond this they do not see the purpose of reading. Most of the avenues of employment generally associated with reading are not open to them. In some cases we find a desire to read books dealing with the occupation upon which the Native is engaged. An example is the Native employed in the Durban Municipal Electricity Department who is anxious to read books dealing with electrical machinery.
- (g) Lack of any general perception of the benefits and pleasure to be derived from reading. In few, if any cases, has the wide field of enjoyment to be gained by reading even been glimpsed.

*Recommendations*

*Our recommendations for the development of the Non-European Library Service are as follows :—*

1. That the Library Service should be carefully conducted on a tentative and experimental basis.
2. It should be administered by a trained librarian with a special concern for its objects : a sympathetic administrator who will keep in close personal touch with the readers, direct the experiments, and be ready to be guided by the results which the experiments show.
3. That there should be close personal co-operation between the library organization, the Department of Native Education, and religious and social organizations, such as missions engaged in work among the Native people.
4. That books should be very carefully chosen. As many books as are obtainable in the Native language should be circulated. Books should be well printed and illustrated. They should be short, so that the readers should not become weary of them before they are finished. A list of the books regarded as most suitable will be found in the appendix.
5. That teachers and others who act as local librarians should be encouraged to take a personal interest in the books and to stimulate an interest in them among their students.
6. That these local librarians should have ready access to the librarian in charge of the service in order to discuss problems which arise from the distribution of the books and particularly in order to discuss the need of individual readers.
7. That a library depository be established where a reserve stock of books can be seen by local librarians. This stock also to be open to the inspection of individual readers whenever they are able to visit it.
8. That periodical visits should be made to each centre by the librarian in order to establish personal contact with individual readers and with those responsible for the local administration. These visits might usefully be used also for the telling of stories to groups of readers or for talks about books.
9. That provision should be made at a central and easily accessible place for the issue of books to adult Natives who have no access to the service through the schools. At this place it should be possible for books to be exchanged at hours suitable to adult Natives in regular

employment. This provision would meet the needs of the many Natives who attend night-schools. Books in this depot should be specially chosen to meet the needs of the readers. Books dealing in simple language with the occupations of the readers are required.”\*

The position to-day is almost exactly as it was when this investigation was undertaken in 1933. The service has been extended by the purchase of more books and new institutions have been added to those already receiving book-boxes.

Here and there, as for instance at Adams College where reading is part of the students' course, are signs that the service is being of effective use, but for the most part the service must be regarded as still being in its tentative and experimental stages.

Book purchases for the service have been made experimentally and cover a wide field. The books most in demand fall into these classifications :—

- (a) Books in the vernacular — as many as are available and suitable are purchased for circulation.
- (b) Single copy readers such as Harrap's *All time tales* and Juta's *New African readers*.
- (c) Folk tales such as Worthington's *The Little wise one* and Pritchard's *Fifty Stories from Uncle Remus*.
- (d) Fairy tales.
- (e) Stories of animal life such as :— Fitzsimmon's *Monkey folk of South Africa* ; Skaife's *Animal life in South Africa*.
- (f) History. This section includes :—  
Colvin : *South Africa* ; Van Loon : *Story of mankind*.
- (g) Biography. In this section :—  
Booker T. Washington's *Up from slavery* and Smith's *Aggrey of Africa* are specially popular.
- (h) Fiction. A wide selection of boys' and girls' stories and standard works of fiction, particularly those available in abridged, well printed and illustrated editions.

The service has endeavoured to meet any reading need that has been discovered, but has had to limit its purchases to books likely to be of general interest. It has had to refuse to supply books for the special

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\* *Report of an enquiry into the working of the Non-European Library Service*, by M. C. Hewitt and Maurice Webb. 1933. (Reprinted, without the Appendix, in *Race Relations*, v. 2. no. 1 : 118—21, Dec.-Jan., 1934—35).

requirements of individuals or very small groups where it was felt that the books, if purchased, would not afterwards be suitable for general circulation.

Further experience emphasizes the need expressed in the 1933 report for the librarian specially concerned to administer the service, keep in touch with readers and direct the experiment. The service has lost the help of Miss M. Hewitt and while the technical administration is willingly undertaken by the staff of the Municipal Library there is no one person making the effective development of this service a whole-time occupation. To undertake the work indicated in the recommendations of the report would need the full time of a qualified librarian especially interested in the work.

Apart from this Carnegie Non-European Library Service which is the principal means for the provision of books for Non-Europeans in Natal, there are certain other facilities existing or being set up.

M. K. GANDHI LIBRARY. *See separate article.*

#### BANTU SOCIAL CENTRE

The Durban Bantu Social Centre is one of the institutions that regularly receive books of general interest through the book-boxes of the Carnegie Non-European Library Service. In addition, a small permanent specialized library of books on Native and Race Problems is being built up at the centre. This Library includes such books as :—

BUELL :	The Native problem in Africa
MACMILLAN :	Bantu, Boer and Briton
MAIR :	Native policies in Africa
ROGERS :	Native administration in the Union of South Africa
SCHAPERA, <i>ed.</i>	Western civilization and the Bantu

These books are in constant demand by the small "intelligentsia" minority of Bantu Social Centre members.

The books drawn from the book-boxes of the Carnegie Non-European Library Service that have been in greatest demand by the general membership of the centre are :

CERVANTES :	Don Quixote
GOLLOCK :	Daughters of Africa
MEE :	Golden year
PATERSON :	Man-eaters of Tsavo
SKAIFE :	Animal life of South Africa
SETON :	Wild animals at home
VERNE :	Dropped from the clouds

The Bantu Social Centre could afford a valuable laboratory for experiment in book provision for the Durban Bantu if it had the benefit of the services of a qualified librarian.

#### AFRICAN AND NEGRO LIBRARY\*

A library which promises to be of considerable interest to the whole Non-European population is now being established, with the name "African and Negro Library". The object of this Library is "to establish and maintain a library of books and music written by Africans and American Negroes as a memorial to the achievement of the African people". The funds for the establishment of this Library have been provided by the Carnegie Corporation.

The first home of this Library is the Durban Bantu Centre where a special room for the exclusive use of the Library has been provided. Book cases are being made in the workshops of Adams College and the first books purchased are now arriving. These include such typical works as :—

CULLEN :	Colour
DUNBAR :	Poems
HUGHES :	Not without laughter
JOHNSON :	Autobiography of an ex-coloured man
—	God's trombones
MOCKERJE :	An African speaks for his people
MOFOLO :	Chaka
PLAATJE :	Mhudi
SOGA :	The Ama-Xosa
VILAKAZI :	Inkondlo Kazulu
WASHINGTON :	Up from slavery

When ready to be opened this Library will be available freely to Europeans and Non-Europeans. The question of the issue of books for home reading has yet to be decided.

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\* *Chairman* : Maurice Webb.



## ADAMS COLLEGE LIBRARY

Adams College (Training College, High School and Industrial School for Natives, co-ordinating also in providing University courses in conjunction with the Natal University College and Sastri College) has a Library of some 5,000 volumes in which books on Africa, vernacular Literature, Theology and popular literature on Religion are prominent.

This Library is included in the Non-European Library Service and receives boxes of books regularly. Every student, except those in the two lowest classes, is expected to keep a library note-book, giving an account of his reading. These note-books are liable to be called up any time during the year. Periods are set aside for library reading and guidance is given from time to time by the teachers. The librarian reports that library reading has been improved considerably since this procedure has been adopted.

THE JOHN DUBE MEMORIAL LIBRARY, *Ohlange*

A new library of some importance is the John Dube Memorial Library to be established at Ohlange Institute. The Institute was founded by the Rev. John Dube and it has been through it that he has made his distinctive contribution to the cause of his people. The work which has been done at Ohlange Institute was fittingly recognized by the University of South Africa in conferring upon the Rev. John Dube the honorary degree of Ph. D., the first honorary degree to be conferred upon a native in South Africa.

A group of Dr. Dube's friends, wishing to mark their appreciation of his services to his people, have raised a fund, which, with Dr. Dube's approval, is to be used to establish at Ohlange a Library to be known as the John Dube Memorial Library. This Library is to be made up of six sections :—

- (1) A Collection of books in Zulu.
- (2) A Collection of books in simplified English for beginners.
- (3) A Collection of general literature similar to that circulated by the Carnegie Non-European Library Service.
- (4) A Collection of complete editions of standard works.
- (5) A Collection of books written by Africans and Negroes.
- (6) A Reference Collection.

Whether or not this Library will be available to the Natives of the district generally, or will be for the use of the students only, has yet to be determined. In any case it should provide not only a fitting memorial to a life of distinguished service but also a valuable contribution to the library facilities available to the Native people of Natal. At the least, future students of the Ohlange Institute will have the opportunity of becoming acquainted with the contents of an extensive library and be able to develop the habit of reading.

#### NATAL TEACHERS' LIBRARY

There is a general library at the Education Department Maritzburg for the use of the Native Teachers employed by the Department.\*

.....  
These library facilities, interesting and important as they are, indicate a need rather than supply a need.

There is a growing need for a thorough library service for Non-Europeans, undertaken in that spirit of enterprise and faith that has marked the development of the best library activities in England and America, a development that has grown from the conviction that the supply of books is not enough and that a library service in the end is concerned, not so much with books as with persons, and is directed to an understanding of their needs and the stimulation of their interests and hopes.

The library facilities that have been enumerated in this article might well be supplementary to a real public library service for Non-Europeans. They can never be a substitute for it.

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\* It is housed in the Education Office, and is in charge of a full-time Native librarian. Members pay an entrance fee of 3/6, but no further subscription is charged, and books are sent free through the post.

The Library possesses more than 2,000 volumes and the membership is over 300. An article on this Library appeared in *S. A. L.* 1, no. 3 : 91—92, January, 1934. The *Native teachers' journal*, published by the Natal Education Department regularly contains lists of new books and short reviews of books of special interest to Native teachers.

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## SASTRI COLLEGE LIBRARY

*By*A. C. HOLGATE, *Librarian**Administration*

Two assistant masters are in charge of the books, kept in a room set apart as the Library. Books are arranged on shelves under the different subject-headings, one section being for Student Teachers in training. A set of books on loan from the Municipal Library is also housed in the library.

Books are given out every afternoon immediately after classes are over. A record is kept by the master-in-charge on the following system.

*Name of Student : Std. : Name of Book : Number : Returned :*

When a book is returned a check mark is placed in the last column. Books must be returned within a fortnight or renewed — if not, a list of defaulters is sent round to the classes.

Classes are sometimes brought into the Library to enable students to refer to books, under the master's guidance.

A set of magazines, such as the *National geographic magazine* is kept in the Library, for reading purposes.

*Membership*

Every student of the College automatically becomes a member of the Library so that we should have about 300 members if everyone took advantage of the facilities.

*Book Stock*

This consists of about 350 books, to which we add every year.

*Reading tastes*

The "Fiction" section seems to be the most popular, Jules Verne, Rider Haggard and Kipling being favourite authors. The History section is used more by the senior pupils in the Matriculation classes.

*Proposed developments*

- (1) A special section of good works of Fiction for Standard VII pupils
- (2) a study period every week for each class
- (3) A wider selection of periodicals for general reading.

There is a great need for more reference books and good stories, as Indian students do not have the same facilities at home for reading as European students very often do.

### THE M. K. GANDHI LIBRARY, DURBAN

The M. K. Gandhi Library is maintained solely by the Bai Jerbai Rustomjee Trust. It was founded and donated by the late Mr. Parsee Rustomjee, and is administered by a committee of honorary members. It is a free institution, open to all irrespective of creed or colour, and no charge whatsoever is made.

To the Library is attached the Parsee Rustomjee Hall where meetings, receptions, conferences and lectures are held.

The attendance at the Library for the year ended 31st August, 1936, was 80,424, being an increase of 2,404 on that of the previous year. This total included 12,949 students, as well as 100 Europeans, 1,391 Coloureds and 908 Natives. Although the Library was established especially for the Indian community, others are made welcome as visitors.

The book stock consists of :—

English	2,985
Gujerati	1,721
Hindi	755
Tamil	366
Telugu	61
Urdu	224
	<u>6,112</u>

Of the above, 480 English and 267 Gujarati books are specially set aside for the use of juveniles and students.

123 periodicals and newspapers are taken, including 66 in English, 34 in Gujarati, 10 in Hindi, 7 in Tamil, and 3 each in Telugu and Urdu.

2,217 English books were issued for reading in the Library during the year, 1066 Gujarati, 160 Hindi, 297 Tamil, 25 Telugu and 26 Urdu, making a total of 3,791.

Although the use of the Library is free it does not allow books to be taken away to be read at home, nor do the funds of the Trust allow sufficient books to be purchased to enable the Library to provide for general reading needs. The Gandhi Library is a valuable institution, but it does not in any way provide the Indian people with a service parallel to that provided for Europeans through the Municipal Library.

Four lectures were arranged by the committee and delivered during the year by the following :—

Mrs. Z. Gool, on *The national movement in India*

Dr. A. Gool, on *Ancient Egypt and its influence on modern civilization*

Mr. T. M. Naicker, on *India of to-day*

Mr. Anand Rai, on *My visit to India*

In their reading the patrons show a preference for books on social, political and other Indian cultural activities, the lives of great leaders, etc.

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## APPOINTMENTS, RETIREMENTS, ETC.

ASHENHURST. — Miss J. Ashenhurst, Librarian of the Wynberg Library, has arranged an exchange for a year, as from October, with Miss W. Snelling, F. L.A., as assistant at the Leyton Public Libraries, London. Both Library Committees have agreed to the exchange.

GRIFFITHS. — Mr. W. G. Griffiths, Librarian of the Benoni Public Library, and for some years Secretary of the Transvaal Branch of the S. A.L.A., has been elected chairman of the East Rand School Board.

DU TOIT. — Miss P. Du Toit, Librarian of the Tulbagh Public Library, and a member of last year's Vacation School at Durban, was married on 31st. July to Mr. C. Steenkamp, of Parow.

UNGERER. — Mr. J. S. Ungerer, for many years assistant at the State Library, has been appointed Librarian of the Union Education Department Library.

WOOD. — Miss Josie Wood, the founder, librarian and secretary of the South African Library for the Blind at Grahamstown, was awarded a Coronation Medal.

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## OBITUARY

PITT. — We regret to announce the sudden death, in September, of Mr. S. A. Pitt, City Librarian of Glasgow, and one of the Carnegie Visitors to South Africa in 1928.

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## LIBRARY NOTES AND NEWS

**Potchefstroom. Public Library.** Reporting to the annual meeting of Carnegie Library subscribers, the librarian, Mr. L. Gerber, said that more books were issued last year than in any previous year. History, biography and travel still held first place among serious literature. Poetry, drama and fine arts came next. There was a marked increase in the Afrikaans section, and with the exception of Pretoria, Potchefstroom Library issued the largest number of Afrikaans and Nederlands books in the Union. The Juvenile section was well patronised. The library now had 16,115 books, and last year there were 112,280 issues.

## BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

**Books for the Blind.** Lord Nuffield has made a further gift of £35,000 towards the provision of talking books for the blind. In August, 1935, he contributed £5,000 towards the cost of talking books, which are being produced by the Sound Records Committee set up by the National Institute for the Blind and St. Dunstan's. The previous month Lord Nuffield had sent £10,000 for the welfare of the blind to Sir Beachcroft Towse, V. C., chairman of the National Institute for the Blind.

**Mudie's.** Mudie's well-known circulating library has closed down after being in existence for ninety-five years.

**Newspapers and Periodicals.** *Births and deaths.* The *Natal advertiser* has changed its name to *The Natal daily news*, from 2. August 1937.

**Paper Factory.** The South African Paper and Pulp Industries, Ltd. are establishing a paper factory at Geduld, Springs, at an approximate cost of £100,000. About 100 Europeans and 200 natives will be employed.

**Place Names in Afrikaans.** A committee has been appointed by the Government to investigate the problem of uniformity in the Afrikaans spelling of geographical names, consisting of: Mr. P. I. Hoogenhout, chairman, Professor J. J. Smith, Professor M. C. Botha, Professor G. C. Lestrade, Professor J. J. Le Roux, Professor S. P. E. Boshoff, Mr. L. A. Heemstra and Mr. J. D. Louw, Government translator. There are also two railway representatives and one post office representative. Two sub-committees have been formed, one to deal with Bantu and other native names, and one to consider all other South African names. The committee is anxious to take evidence from all interested parties during the later stages of their proceedings, and details to permit of this will be published later.

**Psalm Book in Afrikaans.** The Afrikaans Psalm Book to be used by the three Dutch Reformed Churches in the Union has just been published after thirteen years' work. The South African Bible Society is responsible for the publication, and the Nasionale Pers Beperk for the printing.

**Picture Bureau.** A Bureau of South African Illustrations has been established in conjunction with the Union Education Department. The Bureau is the outcome of an idea of the late Dr. J. G. Gubbins, and aims to provide for teaching purposes pictures of all kinds dealing with South Africa. A committee consisting of representatives of the Education Department and the Gubbins Collection of Africana has been set up.

**Rhodesian Documents.** Thousands of documents dealing with the history of Southern Rhodesia have been collected in Great Britain by Mr. V. Hiller, Government Archivist of Rhodesia.

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**TO OUR READERS.** We have obtained contributions from most of the prominent Non-European libraries known to us, but no doubt other significant work is being carried on unostentatiously and unknown to the Editor. Further articles, news items and correspondence will be eagerly received.

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## THE TRANSVAAL NON-EUROPEAN LIBRARY\*

*Overwhelming Demand for Books*

One of the most remarkable libraries in the world has its headquarters in Germiston. It is the Transvaal Non-European Library. It is doing a most valuable type of work, its educative influence being enormous.

It is certainly one of the most popular libraries. The demand for books by the subscribers far outstrips the supply. It could increase its work five-fold if it only had the funds to do so.

The library was started in 1931 following the visit to South Africa in 1928 of two Carnegie visitors, Mr. Pitt† and Mr. Ferguson, who were astonished to find no library service whatever for non-Europeans in South Africa. As a result of their interest a Carnegie grant of £1,000 was made with the proviso that it was to be spent solely on the purchase of books. Similar grants were made in Natal, the Cape, and the Orange Free State.

A committee was set up in the Transvaal to establish the library and it has continued to administer it. Mr. M. M. Stirling, State Librarian, is the Chairman, and Senator J. D. Rheinallt Jones is a member of the Committee. As the result of the interest in the project of Mr. Stirling, then librarian of the Germiston (Carnegie) Public Library, the headquarters were established in Germiston. The library proved a wonderful boon to the native people and was found to fill a great need.

*Revenue*

It has expanded enormously, but its expansion has been limited by the rather restricted financial resources. Its revenue is not large. The Witwatersrand Council of Education made it a grant of £120 a year for three years, the Provincial Administration contributes £100 a year and so does the Johannesburg City Council. Various smaller amounts are contributed by other municipalities. Recently the Transvaal Chamber of Mines made a grant of £200.

Last year Mr. E. A. Borland, the librarian and secretary of the committee, received a Carnegie travel scholarship and as a result of representations made to the Carnegie Corporation by the Committee in 1935 the Corporation made a further grant, enabling the library to appoint a native

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\* Reprinted from *The Star*, 14 June, 1937, by kind permission of the Editor.

† See Obituary notice in this issue.

organiser and place the library on a proper basis. The Witwatersrand Council of Education again came to the assistance of the library with a grant. It is a sad commentary upon the South African attitude towards the native people that the initiative and the bulk of the funds for this fine service has come from without the Union.

During his visit to America, Canada and Britain and in other researches Mr. Borland has inquired whether there exists elsewhere a library which encourages not only people who can read to read more, but also encourages an illiterate population to learn to read. But to his knowledge the work the Transvaal Non-European Library is doing is unique.

A library service is being rendered to a largely illiterate and backward people. It is helping to educate them, interest them in social and other problems and assist them to develop intellectually and culturally.

### *5,000 Books*

The library possesses some 5,000 books at the moment. These are sent all over the Transvaal into the remotest native villages and settlements as well as all over the Reef. There are a few centres in Bechuanaland and Swaziland which also avail themselves of this service.

About 60 centres are served, the books being distributed from them to the subscribers. These centres are situated in locations, in native schools, in missionary centres and settlements, in native institutions and social centres, such as the Bantu Men's Social Centre, in native colleges and training centres. In each centre there is a voluntary librarian and in many, especially in the locations, there are library committees.

To the librarians in each centre the headquarters in Germiston sends out boxes of books containing from 50 to 300 books, depending on the number of subscribers attached to the centre. These boxes are specially constructed to act as shelves. The voluntary librarian in each centre distributes the books to the subscribers and exchanges them regularly. The service is entirely free to the subscribers. There is a deposit of 2/6, but this is often reduced when the subscriber cannot put up this sum and sometimes it is even waived altogether. This is a library that is run as a great social service. Every six months each centre gets a fresh batch of books.

Mr. Borland considers that he has a more appreciative body of subscribers than any other librarian in the world. The demand for his books is overwhelming and rather embarrassing. There is hardly ever a stock of books at the Germiston Headquarters. All volumes are out among the readers.

*Natives' Keeness*

"It is very interesting to see the eagerness with which these books are taken out and read by the native people," says Mr. Borland. "They simply thirst for the books and the knowledge they can extract from them. It is a pity that our resources are so limited. We could easily distribute ten times the number of books we possess and we could open up many new centres all over the province. Our big problem is to restrict our activities within our financial resources."

All the locations on the Reef with the exception of Boksburg have centres. The Benoni Town Council has set a good lead by giving the local centre a building and paying for a full-time librarian. The Non-European Library is also of great assistance to native students taking correspondence courses for various academic qualifications by supplying them with books.

The library's organiser is Mr. H. I. E. Dhlomo. He tours the province, visiting the various centres and getting them efficiently organised. It is also his duty to make the work of the library known and spread the idea of education through reading. Unfortunately through lack of funds, he has had to concentrate on the existing centres rather than on opening new centres. He is going to make one experiment in the near future by opening a centre at the Crown Mines and getting the compound natives interested.

*Non-fiction Popular*

It is also Mr. Dhlomo's task to gauge the tastes of the subscribers. What he has to say and the experience of the library as to demand for particular kinds of books make interesting reading. The library's stock consists almost equally of fiction and non-fiction. It has been found that the demand for non-fiction rather exceeds the demand for fiction.

In the non-fiction section biography, social studies and economics are in big demand. Most popular of all are all books dealing with Africa and its problems and with the aspirations and struggles of the native people and also of the American negroes. The natives are most interested in their own struggles and problems, their own cultural development and the aspirations of their race.

Everything in the native languages, which is unfortunately not very much, is eagerly sought after.

In fiction, too, the taste of the natives is serious. For modern writers there is little or no demand, for detective and the lighter kind of fiction none. The classics are chiefly wanted. Dickens and Fielding and Thackeray are favourites.

"My people feel that they have so much to learn, so much leeway to make up that there is no time to waste on trash," states Mr. Dhlomo. The natives definitely look upon the library service as a heaven-sent opportunity to educate themselves. They seize avidly every book they can lay their hands on. They pass them on to their friends, too. It is impossible to say how many people benefit from the Non-European Library, for books are passed so much from hand to hand that it is impossible to keep track of them from headquarters.

*Books Highly Prized*

But they are seldom lost or damaged. To the natives books are so prized and valued that they are well looked after, and in this respect also the natives are model subscribers. The native school-children especially, in contrast with many European school-children, are most careful of their borrowed books and usually cover them in brown paper when they receive them.

In investigating the work of this library one cannot but be impressed by the fine and the valuable work it is doing, and one cannot but feel that it deserves greater financial support so that its activities may be extended.

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## CONFERENCE OF NON-EUROPEAN LIBRARIES (Transvaal Carnegie Non-European Library)

A Conference of Non-European Librarians was held in the Bantu Men's Social Centre, Johannesburg, on Monday, 28th September, 1936. A report of the proceedings appeared in *The South African outlook*, 67: 282-84, Dec. 1, 1936.

### YOUR CO-OPERATION INVITED

Our next issue is to be a special *Children's and School Libraries Number*. Help to make this a really interesting and useful publication. Many of you who have worked or want to work with children must have felt the need from time to time of information or ideas. We shall be glad to have suggestions for the type of article that would be most welcome. Others who have had fruitful experience in this type of work are invited to tell their colleagues about it. Please send your suggestions and contributions to the Hon. Editor as soon as possible, and in any case not later than 15th November.

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## PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

## 1. December Examinations

- (a) *Closing date for entry.* Candidates are reminded that applications for admission to the December Examinations must reach the Hon. Secretary not later than 15th October, and that entry forms must be returned by 15th November.

(Cf. *Scheme of examinations, para. 7*).

- (b) *Dates of examinations :—*

Dec. 13.	9—12	Elementary Afrikaans
		Final Afrikaans and Ned. I
	2— 5	Final Afrikaans and Ned. II
		Elementary Routine, etc.
Dec. 14.	9—12	Elementary English
		Final English I
	2— 5	Final English II
		Language Tests (if any)
Dec. 15.	9—12	Intermediate Cataloguing I
	2— 5	Intermediate Cataloguing II
Dec. 17.	9—12	Intermediate Classification I
	2— 5	Intermediate Classification II
Dec. 18.	9—12	Final Administration I
Dec. 20.	9—12	Final Administration II
	2— 5	Final Administration III
Dec. 21.	9—12	Final Bibliography, etc. I
	2— 5	Final Bibliography, etc. II

## 2. Correspondence Courses

At a meeting of the Education Sub-committee held in the University of the Witwatersrand Library on 13th August, it was resolved that :

- (a) Offering of Correspondence Courses in both Afrikaans and English in the *Elementary* and *Intermediate* Subjects be dependent upon a minimum enrolment of *four* students in *each* language respectively.
- (b) In the *Final Administration* a minimum of *three* students be required in each language respectively.
- (c) *Final Bibliography.* No course to be offered in 1938, as the Committee felt that students should devote a whole year each to Administration and Bibliography.

Intending candidates for the Correspondence Courses should send in their applications not later than 31st December.

*Fees :—Elementary and Intermediate.* £1. 1. 0 per course.

In the Elementary, Part 3 : Cataloguing, Classification and Routine counts as one course. In the Intermediate, Cataloguing and Classification are two separate courses.

*Final.* £2. 2. 0 per course.

Syllabuses and lists of books are supplied gratis to students enrolling for any course, or may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, for 1/-.

### 3. Exemptions

At the above-mentioned meeting it was resolved that : "A candidate who is exempt from Parts I and/or II of the Elementary Examination be permitted to attempt the remaining part (s) concurrently with his first Intermediate Examination. (*Cf. Scheme*, para. 4 and 16).

### 4. Examination results — (British) Library Association

*Elementary Examination.* Mr. W. P. Butler, Johannesburg Public Library

## LIBRARY NOTES AND NEWS

**Germiston. Public Library.** From the *Annual report* :—

Membership :	1936	1937
Town subscribers	791	800
Town groups		272
Children	2,209	1,993
Depositors	11	12
Country members	193	191
Circulation	117,135	121,091
School libraries	68,278	103,893
Tvl. rural free service	21,121	35,668
Tvl. Non-European service	3,983	5,055
Total Circulation	210,517	265,737

**Transvaal Rural Free Library System :**

Number of centres		105
Number of readers	2,476	6,025

The Provincial Council increased its grant for the purpose of maintaining and extending this service to £1,000. Requests from small communities that they be given free library service are constantly being received, but during the current year only fifteen more centres may be accommodated.

**School Library System.** One hundred and twenty schools were supplied from Germiston, thirteen through the Krugersdorp Public Library and fourteen through the Vereeniging Public Library.

**Transvaal Carnegie Non-European Library.** Books were distributed to sixty-one centres, including about 2,136 readers.

**Children's Library.** A start was made during the latter part of the year on assembling a picture collection.

**Free library.** As a result of representations made during the year by the Committee to the Town Council, the Library will have sufficient funds in the next financial year to enable a free service to be provided for the whole public of Germiston from 1. October.



## CORRESPONDENCE

The Editor,

*South African Libraries,*

JOHANNESBURG

Sir,

I was interested to read in the last number of *South African Libraries* the letters by Mr. Stirling and Miss Elizabeth Hartmann, provoked by Mr. Coetzee's paper on library education.

I have not been long employed in a library, but I am an experienced examinee — if one may be permitted the phrase — and my examinations have been both academic and professional.

An academic degree in Library Science—or indeed any other degree—does not seem to be an essential attribute of a librarian. What is generally accepted as essential is that he should have a thorough knowledge of the technique of his profession, and that he should have a wide general knowledge, which is, after all, culture. This general knowledge can only be acquired by years of wide and interested reading—it must grow with experience. As Mr. Stirling says, it cannot be forced and no degree alone can give it. But—and this seems to me to be the real value of a University degree—a graduate is given, as it were, a start in years over the non-graduate. What he has gained during his course of university study would take an enthusiastic non-university trained man much longer to acquire—but he can acquire it—of that there is no doubt.

So much for general knowledge or "cultural background." The other major requirement for an efficient librarian is technical knowledge, and the present examinations of the South Africa Library Association do demand a close acquaintance with library technique—library technique in its widest scope and not as practised in a particular library (which may account for the failures of which Mr. Coetzee complains). The examinations cannot with justice be called mere "memory tests". In the Intermediate practical examinations candidates are allowed free use of the cataloguing and classification codes—and, as an inspection of the papers would show, memorising whole books would not ensure a pass even in the theoretical papers. The usual run of University examinations are far more dependant on memory.

The examinations as they stand appear to make sufficient provision for the different "stages" in librarianship mentioned by Miss Hartmann

and Mr. Coetzee. To anyone who has no desire to be more than an efficient assistant the Intermediate affords a convenient stopping place. It should not take more than three years' study and anyone grudging that time should seek employment elsewhere than in a library. The Associate is a qualified cataloguer and classifier — two of the main requirements of an assistant — and to the assistant who is content to remain an assistant advanced administration is unnecessary and bibliography a luxury.

The librarian-in-charge of a specialist library surely requires the same general training in library science as any other administrative librarian. His specialization should begin only after he is a qualified librarian and then it should be in the direction of specialized knowledge in the subject with which he is concerned. How he acquires that knowledge is his own affair and outside the field of a course offering training in librarianship.

The Final Examination is not too much to ask of the country and small town librarian. The country library should be quite as much the heart of a community as the town library — perhaps even more so, for the country has far fewer resources to offer than the towns. And if it is admitted that the library is all-important then it follows that the librarian should be thoroughly versed in library science and the Final should be his minimum attainment. Indeed in small libraries with very limited financial backing, problems, as for instance book selection, present greater difficulties than in the larger and more prosperous urban institutions. And, after all, the doctor in the village is a fully qualified doctor, the lawyer a fully qualified lawyer and the teacher a fully qualified teacher.

I am, etc.

MAISIE WEIR.

## LIBRARY NOTES AND NEWS

**Krugersdorp.** *Public Library.* From the *Annual report* :—

Membership	3,418
Children's department	2,251
Circulation	101,071
Children's department	20,000

The membership represents 19.27% of the population of the town. The Transvaal Education Department School Library System [operated by the Germiston Public Library] supplies the library with 1,000 books which are continually being changed. Thirteen schools in the municipal area are supplied with books.

The building up of a reference library to serve pupils attending local schools and students on the mines in the municipal area has been the concern of the librarian over a long period. Despite the fact that additions have been made from time to time to the reference section, the demands of the student public exceed what the library is able to supply at the moment. There are about 420 books in the section. . . . About 140<sup>e</sup> books were borrowed from the State Library during the year.

## NON-EUROPEAN LIBRARY SERVICE IN THE EASTERN PROVINCE \*

Following upon a grant of £1,000 for Non-European library services, made by the Carnegie Corporation of New York for allocation in the Eastern districts of the Cape Province, Mr. M. M. Stirling, Honorary Secretary of the South African Library Association, and Mr. J. D. Rheinallt Jones, Adviser of the South African Institute of Race Relations, conferred together and agreed upon the allocations.

When making the allocations, the following points were stressed :—

1. Ninety per cent of the grants to be spent on books.
2. Every centre asked to assist smaller outside centres.
3. Caution advised in the purchase of books for Non-Europeans, whose taste is as yet very little known.
4. The library services should be free.
5. The grants are intended to serve as a stimulus in provision of library facilities for Non-Europeans by local bodies.
6. The library services should be run under the auspices of the local public library, as is the case at Durban and on the Witwatersrand.

### *Aliwal North*

There is a coloured Library and also a Native Library at this centre. The former consisted of about two hundred books, mostly novels with a few books of travel and about a dozen Afrikaans books. There are about forty readers. The Native Library contained about a hundred books, mostly novels. It is well housed in the Native Recreation Hall in the Municipal location. £100 has been allocated to this centre for the two libraries and the Secretary of the Joint Council of Europeans, Natives and Coloured has written as follows :— "This grant will greatly stimulate local efforts in furthering the education and healthy recreation of our less fortunate races. We shall follow the advice to place about £60 on safe deposit, as we do not want to purchase a number of books which will never be read. By experimenting carefully, we shall learn the taste of our Non-Europeans, and then, little by little, we can build up decent libraries — the nucleus of social clubs and evening classes. Very soon we shall be able to start with the local schools, and when the libraries have grown extend our facilities to the surrounding small towns."

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\* Interim report on the library services for Native and other Non-European groups resulting from a grant of £1,000 received from the Carnegie Corporation of New York in 1936, submitted in manuscript to the C. C. N. Y.

*Cradock*

There are at present no library facilities for Non-Europeans in Cradock, but, on hearing that £100 would be allocated from the Carnegie grant to this centre, the local Joint Council of Europeans and Natives have taken the matter up, and a sub-committee has been appointed as a deputation to wait on the Municipal Council to ask for the establishment of a Non-European social centre, and library building. The amount allocated has, however, not yet been taken up.

*East London*

A large room in the Location Hall has been fitted up as a library for Non-Europeans by the East London Municipality. A committee has been appointed which is busy getting information as to suitable books to be bought out of the allocation of £200 from the Carnegie grant. The Committee will do what it can to cater for the needs of the outside districts and also of Non-European teachers, who suffer greatly from lack of reading material. The library will be free. On the advice of Mr. Rheinallt Jones, the Public Library was approached to help in the running of the library, but it has been found difficult to persuade them to do so.

*Grahamstown*

There is a library in the Native location, but it has been in a very bad state, for there is no cataloguing and the books themselves are very dilapidated. The Natives are very keen on the library and about twenty or thirty continually have a book out, though the books have usually been cast-offs from Europeans who found an easy way of getting rid of unwanted examination text-books. On receiving the allocation of £60, a committee was appointed, consisting of the old library Committee and the Chairman and Secretary of the Joint Council, and a start has been made with the buying of books.

*Fort Beaufort and Healdtown*

A good Native library has been run by the Joint Council of Europeans and Natives at Fort Beaufort, from which books are sent out to teachers in batches and returned with comments on their interest and usefulness. The allocation of £40 will prove very helpful in increasing the supply of good books and the library at Healdtown Native Institution will also benefit by the grant.

*Kingwilliamstown*

The Library for Non-Europeans consists of about 2,500 volumes, donated from private collections, and is at present housed in a municipal

location room, pending the erection of the social hall, which is to incorporate a library. Library facilities for this area have to serve an enormous population, and the £100 allocated from the Carnegie funds will help to increase the supply of books and to create public interest in the necessity for providing library facilities for Non-Europeans.

#### *Kokstad*

The Joint Council of Europeans and Non-Europeans have decided to explore the possibilities of a library for Non-Europeans being established at Kokstad, and £25 has been provisionally set aside to be handed to the Joint Council when it is able to state definitely that provision can be made for a library.

#### *Port Elizabeth*

£200 was set aside for this centre, but only £100 of this has so far been taken up by the newly-established Bantu Library in the New-Brighton Location. The remaining £100 has been provisionally allocated to meet the needs of the Coloured and other Non-Europeans in Port Elizabeth, but there is some doubt that it will be used. The Port Elizabeth Municipality has recently erected a community hall in the New-Brighton Location to serve a population of over seven hundred. A well appointed, shelved room has been set aside for the Bantu Library and £16 has been subscribed for books. It is hoped in the future to have a paid Native Librarian, but at first the organisation will be done by interested Europeans who will train up a reliable Native. The Library is open to all Non-Europeans of the districts. A strong Committee consisting of Europeans and Bantu has been appointed, and there is no doubt that the library will fill a very long overdue need.

#### *Queenstown*

The Joint Council of Europeans and Natives was instrumental in obtaining a suitable Non-European library and reading room with furniture and a good number of periodicals and papers were available. The allocation of £100 will be expended on books.

#### *Umtata*

The Transkeian Native Reference Library, which has ten branches and serves the whole of the Transkeian Territories, has applied for a grant, and it has been decided to make an allocation of £60. The Library is efficiently run and will make good use of the books bought out of the Carnegie grant.

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## LIBRARY NOTES AND NEWS

**Bloemfontein. Public Library.** From the *Annual report* :—

	1936	1937
Income	2,310. 1. 1	2,391. 6. 8
Expenditure	2,375.10. 4	2,438. 12. 2
"    on books	636. 5. 6	801. 8. 6
Circulation	123,281	121,799
Subscribers :		
Town		908
Members supplied through affiliated libraries		1,367
Country subscribers		47
Members of Children's Library		2,062
Total subscribers		4,384

There was a considerable increase in circulation in every section, except the juvenile, where, nevertheless, there has been a substantial increase in membership.

The Library Hall has become increasingly popular for the holding of play-readings, lectures, debates and cultural meetings of all kinds.

The Children's Library has developed steadily, and there are now 2,062 members, an increase of 262 since March, 1936. In addition, numbers of children who are not registered as members visit the Library to consult books and to read the periodicals. . . . A gift of several boxes of plasticine has given the children much pleasure. Every Wednesday afternoon they are provided with materials to draw and model.

A subject catalogue for the Children's Library is in course of compilation. This is modelled on the catalogue in the Main Library, and it is intended, when it is nearer completion, to give the children regular instruction in its use.

Students from the Normal College visited the Library during the year, and were given talks on the use of books and methods used in library work with children.

The Drama Library has continued to develop rapidly and since Bloemfontein is the only library that gives facilities for the borrowing of sets of plays, this section is approaching its ideal of forming a central drama library for South Africa. Ninety-two sets of plays are now available for members, and these have been supplied to societies in each of the four provinces.

**Christiana.** An erf, which was held in trust by the Christiana Town Council for the local library committee, has been sold by public auction for £625, writes the correspondent of *The Star*. The price obtained is the highest at which ground has been sold here for many years. The erf is situated in the business part of the town and the committee intends to purchase other ground and erect a library.

(*The Star*, 7 June, 1937)

**Club Libraries.** The Johannesburg Public Library Committee has received an application from the Malvern and Belgravia Boys and Girls' Club stating that it is in urgent need of more books and books of a more varied character. The committee states in the course of its report to the Johannesburg City Council: "It is generally recognised that one of the most difficult problems which public libraries have to face is that of providing suitable literature for the adolescent. At this age the habit of reading pernicious literature is most easily formed, and every effort should be made to introduce these young people to good books which will provide them with innocent amusement, and which, without being didactic, will assist their cultural and moral development."

It is recommended that books should be lent to approved clubs on the clubs, making themselves responsible for the return of the books and making good any damage other than fair wear and tear, the clubs to provide for the transport of books to and from the library and to keep a proper record of the issue of books.



THE HOWARD PIM LIBRARY  
OF THE  
SOUTH AFRICAN NATIVE COLLEGE, FORT HARE

*By*

JANET P. McCALL, *Librarian*

Few libraries anywhere can have such a varied and interesting clientele as the Howard Pim Library of the South African Native College. It is freely open to staff and students, past and present, of the College, and to them only; but amongst its readers are Bechuanas, Basutos, Xhosas, Fingoes, Pondos, Zulus, Swasis and members of the other Bantu tribes from as far away as Rhodesia, Kenya and Uganda as well as English, Irish, Scots and South Africans of Huguenot, German, Danish and Indian ancestry. Bantu and "Coloured", "White" and Indian, all work together harmoniously within its walls; and to those who know the place the mystery must ever be that what is so easily possible there should seem so wildly and fantastically impossible to the rest of Africa. What is the solvent that has made one community out of readers so diverse in origin? Pondering that question we may haply glimpse an answer to some larger problems. And the answer which the librarian, for one, would give is: "a good general level of education", the word being understood in its strict sense. For in this, our present war-torn world of nationalism run mad, it is truer than ever that 'a little knowledge is a dangerous thing'. Every child is a complete egotist in the ignorance of infancy; it is as we grow in knowledge that we find over and beyond the narrow confines of national language and history and traditions a world-treasury of thought, experience, wisdom, art, science, laid up for all who choose to enter it; and in the measure that we take possession of those riches we become citizens of the world, understanding and understood by all who in common with ourselves have claimed our world-heritage. Speaking of the Library's clients, the Librarian would like to bear testimony to the high standard of honour and of honesty, and also of cleanliness, in the use of books, amongst them — a standard which compares much more than favourably with that of European public libraries, and which speaks well for African education.

The tastes and needs of readers condition the stock of any library; and as this is a students' library, serving people working for the B.A. and B.Sc. degrees of the University of South Africa and for medical, theolo-

gical, and teachers' diplomas, and an African students, Library at that, it has a character all its own. For example only 5% of its stock is fiction ; and on the other hand its African sections could probably safely challenge comparison with most libraries in the country, and almost certainly are better used than any elsewhere. The Bantu student has an unfailing interest in Africa and all that thereto pertains ; but, with rare exceptions, he is not addicted to fiction and considers it unworthy of the serious attention of a man who has all a world's facts to learn, mark, and inwardly digest. Some of us think this a pity ; but perhaps it is a pity that we think so ! History, economics, anthropology, sociology, psychology, ethics, botany, zoology, chemistry, law, theories and methods of education absorb his interest, and he is a born linguist. Needless to say, practically all this reading has to be done through English, and many students speak it so well that heard over wireless they would never be suspected of any but British blood ; but Afrikaans is equally familiar to many, and it is not uncommon to find students at ease in seven languages.

A recent day's issue taken at random will demonstrate best the type of reading sought for and supplied :

ADAMS	Evolution of educational theory
ALLEN	Bureaucracy triumphant
ARMSTRONG	Grey steel · life of Smuts
BERTALANFFY	Modern theories of development
BOAS	Rossetti and his poetry
BULLOCK	The Mashona
BROWNE & GATENBY	Microtomist's vade mecum
BURT	Intelligence tests of educable capacity
CHAUCER	Works, ed. Skeat
CHESTERTON	Robert Browning
CONRAD	Chance
CORY	Rise of South Africa. vol. 5
ELTON	English literature, 1830—1880
FIRTH	Primitive economics of the New Zealand
GEDDIE	The Balladists [Maori
HAMMOND & MARSHALL	Reproduction in the rabbit
HOGBEN	Comparative physiology of internal
HOUSTON	Elements of physics [secretion
JAMES	Plant physiology
KEIR & LAWSON	Cases in constitutional law
MAETERLINCK	Wisdom and destiny
MALHERBE	Hollandse kortverhale

MAPETLA	Liphoofolo, Linonyana, Litaola le Lithoko
MARETT	Anthropology [tsa tsona]
MEREDITH	Poems
MURRAY	Euripides
NEILL	The problem child
NUNN	Education : its data and first principles
OSLER	Principles and practice of medicine
PARTINGTON	Everyday chemistry
RICHARDS	Hunger and work in a savage tribe
RUSK	Experimental education
SANDIFORD	Educational psychology
SMITH	The United States
STEVENSON	Treasure Island
WARD	Chaucer
WERNER	Structure and relationship of African languages

This is a typical day's issue in quantity as well as in quality ; and it roughly represents a loan made to one out of every five possible applicants. Sometimes the issue is smaller ; frequently it more nearly approximates to a book for one out of every four possible applicants. Borrowers, within reason, are permitted to have several books on loan simultaneously and there are students who will borrow as many as seven books in a week and leave no doubt in the mind of any candid person who enters into conversation with them that the books have been read.

The stock of the Library consists of about 13,000 books roughly proportioned thus :

General	...	...	...	...	8.5%
Philosophy	...	...	...	...	5%
Religion	...	...	...	...	15%
Sociology	...	...	...	...	15%
Philology	...	...	...	...	2%
Science	...	...	...	...	6.4%
Useful Arts }	...	...	...	...	
Fine Arts }	...	...	...	...	.3%
English Literature	...	...	...	...	20%
(Including Fiction, Poetry and Drama)					
Other Literatures	...	...	...	...	7.8%
(Including Fiction, Poetry and Drama)					
History & Travel, and Biography	...	...	...	...	20%

(The science stock is supplemented by small collections used for constant reference in the laboratories and kept in them).

Up till two years ago no real classification of the stock had been attempted, and only a very partial and imperfect catalogue in which numbers of books had never been recorded at all had been compiled, because no librarian had been there to tackle the job. The already more than fully employed staff of lecturers had nobly done as a labour of love what they could to record current entries without being able thoroughly to tackle the original stock or large incoming gifts. Things are now moving in the direction of the application of the Dewey Decimal system, and the books are classified in such a way as to make that easily possible at any moment; but its complete institution is a matter of time and money. Up till the present moment the single librarian has been kept busy reorganizing the classification and placing of books, making sure that an author (main entry) card existed for each book (and a book for each card!), and assisting students in the choice of books and the search for information; there remains the numbering of the books, the need of a proper index cabinet to supplant the existing unsuitable and crowded one, the writing of author and subject indexes. The subject index would be of immense value to students and a real saving of time to future librarians; and in a sense it is the greatest need of all. But no librarian needs to be told that all of those steps towards the desirable end of the complete application of the Dewey system involve the expenditure of some money; and money at Fort Hare does not grow on the veld.

The exiguous means — never more than £100 p.a. sometimes only £50, for books and periodicals — are cursed almost hourly by the staff of the college whose difficulty is to find from a tiny annual allowance for each department the needed books and periodicals to keep their students in touch with recent developments in their respective subjects; but in the librarian's opinion the poverty of the college has been to its Library a blessing in disguise since it compelled the closest scrutiny of applications for admissions to its shelves and the elimination from demand lists of everything ephemeral. Yet on the money available little of the wealth stored in the Library could ever have been acquired; and it owes nearly everything to great and generous donors. Amongst these have been:

The late Howard Pim, Esq., of Johannesburg, donor of a large collection of fine and limited editions of English classics and many books of travel, etc., illustrated by noted artists.

The late Dr. Alex Miller, of Buckie, Scotland, donor of a magnificently bound collection of Latin, Greek and other European literature running to about 700 volumes.

The late Rev. R. B. Douglas, donor of an excellent theological library and a well-chosen collection of general literature and biographies.

The late Rev. D. D. Stormont, donor of a valuable law library of about 600 volumes.

The late Rev. Martin Dower and his father, who gave both money and books to the Library.

The late Miss Alice Werner, of London University School of Oriental Languages, and her sister, to whom we owe much valuable material for students of Bantu languages, including the less known languages of Equatorial Africa.

The late Rev. J. Stirling, who bequeathed £50 to be spent on reference books. To W. G. Bennie, Esq., till recently of H. M. Staff of School Inspectors, we are indebted for seeking out and giving to us as a memorial of his grandfather, the Rev. John Bennie, the father of Xhosa literature, some quite priceless and irreplaceable Africana and also for taking upon himself the task of supplying beautifully and serviceably bound copies of many government reports and other documents which will be invaluable to future students in the field of historical research.

Other generous givers, happily still active, have been Rev. Dr. Lennox, now of Johannesburg, but formerly of Fort Hare, A. Simpson Welsh, Esq., Rev. Robert Godfrey, B. D. and Dr. Macvicar of Lovedale. We owe in the aggregate a very great deal to the staff of the college, many of whom have been generous annual donors of books; and we also owe much to certain public bodies — the Research Grant Board, for example; very notably the Bantu Welfare Trust; and Cape Town University, through the kind good offices of whose Librarian we recently acquired Cecil Rhodes' copy of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. It has been the pleasant custom of the Library to label gifts with a special label commemorating the giver.

Like all libraries the Fort Hare Library has at times received gifts not so welcome as those enumerated above, though seldom have books been merely "dumped upon it". But all gifts are accepted on the understanding that what the library cannot conscientiously undertake to use or cherish will be passed on to quarters where it will be welcomed, and in this way gifts have been made to Libraries in Native Locations, in other Institutions, and to college Hostel libraries. Occasionally books, good of their kind but superfluous to our needs, have been sold at cheap rates to students who greatly value the opportunity of a book bargain, the proceeds being applied by the Library to some real lack of its own. When books have been found to be misleading or outdated by the march of time and science — as in the case two years ago of several hundred books on



physics and theology — they have been given decent burial ; and it is believed that remarkably few weeds of this type remain in the library.

The library is housed in a room of pleasant proportions and aspect, lit by large windows facing South, and it remains cool on all but summer's hottest days. But it has outgrown its quarters completely; and even now in mid-term with hundreds of books out on loan the constant problem is how to wedge the returned volume into its due place in the general scheme, and sets have to be placed behind representative books and duplicate copies behind originals as undesirable expedients for making room. The librarian is haunted by night-mare visions of the end-of-the-session inundation of returning books overflowing from shelves to table, from tables to floor, from floor to — ???!!! Moreover, inundations of another sort occasionally occur, for in certain states of wind and weather the roof leaks horribly, seriously endangering much valuable material stacked for lack of space elsewhere on the tops of book-cases ; and it has been pronounced incurable.

Growing-pains no doubt these are ; but they cause anxiety, not the least of which is that a day may soon dawn when for lack of space to house it some valuable gift may have to be rejected. And not only book-room but elbow-room also is often at a premium. The librarian thinks of having placards prepared — "Standing room only" for busy days ; and for the busiest "House Full".

When one thinks of the money wasted up and down the world on statues and tombstones and memorials that do good to nobody and soon cease even to be observed by passers-by it seems a pity that few people realize what a sound investment in living fame and lasting honour a contribution to a well-used library can be. But it is more than that. Possibly few librarians working amongst Europeans know what it is to deal with people really hungering for books; but anybody working for Bantu students understands it. A day may dawn for those who have helped them in that hunger when they may be engaged in some such discourse as this:

"I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat ; I was thirsty and ye gave me drink. . ."

"Lord, when saw we thee an hungered and fed thee ? Or athirst, and gave thee drink ?"

"In asmuch as ye did it unto one of these my brethren, even these least, ye did it unto me "

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THE LIBRARY  
OF THE  
LIBERMAN INSTITUTE, CAPE TOWN

*By*

M. OVERBEEK, *Hon. Organizing Secretary*

The late Hyman Liberman, some time Mayor of Cape Town, a man who knew and sympathized with the needs of the Coloured people, left a bequest for the establishment of a Reading Room in District 6.

From the first the demand outran the supply. The nucleus of a library was presented by the Cape Coloured Library Committee, and this was augmented by private gifts and donations. By August, 1934, there were sufficient books on hand to permit borrowing on a restricted scale and by the end of the year many additional books, principally the property of the Cape Coloured Carnegie Library, were in circulation. Before the end of the first year's working it became necessary to impose new restrictions on the registration of borrowers, despite the fact that the number of books in the Library had risen to about 2,500.

During the following year, largely through the generosity of the Carnegie Library, the number of books was increased to 4,000, and unrestricted borrowing again became possible. Issues during 1935 — 36 reached an average of over 30 per day.

In 1937 (April) the Cape Coloured Carnegie Committee was dissolved and a joint committee was set up to work the Carnegie Library in conjunction with the Hyman Liberman Institute. The stocks of books of both libraries were amalgamated, and the administration is now carried out entirely from the Liberman Institute.

The Carnegie side of the Library continues to send out boxes of books on loan to schools and organizations throughout the Peninsula. The Liberman Institute side of the work consists in the provision of a Reading Room which is open to all comers, and the loan of books to registered borrowers.

The Chairman of the Liberman Institute and of the Joint Committee is Mr. A. Liberman, and there is a paid Non-European librarian who is resident at the Institute, and who has charge of the Reading Room, Lending Library and boxes.

There are about five organizations borrowing boxes and each box contains 50 to 60 books.

It is difficult to estimate the number of active borrowing members as the Library is free, but 725 adults and 529 children have been registered during the last three years, and the average number of daily users is between 30 and 40.

The management committee is often asked what kind of books District 6 reads. In answering this a distinction must be drawn between the books that are in demand and those that can be supplied. District 6 reads the books that it can get ; but if we may judge by the applications that are made to the Institute, it would like to be able to read the kind of books that the rest of Cape Town likes to read : modern fiction, biography and travel, popularly written books on science and social problems, and also, in particular, books written in Afrikaans. These are the classes of book that the Library is least easily able to obtain for its members.

Besides those readers who borrow books, others come to consult books and papers at the Institute itself. The Reading Room is open all day on Saturdays, in the evening on Sundays, and from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. for the rest of the week. During these hours it is usually well frequented by teachers and students in search of material, by members who wish to read newspapers or the books that are too popular to be allowed to circulate, and by children, who, having no school, come during the afternoon to look at picture books. The number of those who use the Reading Room has grown steadily.

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## LIBRARY NOTES AND NEWS

**Randfontein. Public Library.** Extract from *Transvaal Provincial gazette. No. 1466, 23 June 1937. Administrator's Notice. No. 394.* Municipality of Randfontein. Library By-laws amendment.

...*Schedule.* "Amend the Library By-laws of the Randfontein Municipality published under Administrator's Notice No. 535 of the 24th October, 1934, as amended, by the addition to section 16 of the following new paragraph :—

"The librarian may, in his sole discretion, lend books to any educational institution within the municipal area of Randfontein without the payment of fee or deposit and on such conditions as the librarian may stipulate provided always that the librarian shall before lending any books to any such institution, require the principal or such other official of such institution as the librarian shall approve of, to sign and deliver to the librarian a good and sufficient undertaking to indemnify the Council against all loss or damage which may arise on account of the loss or non-return of such books or damage caused thereto, or other damage which may be sustained by the Council by reason of any breach of the conditions on which the books are lent."

## THRILLS OF BOOK-COLLECTING

By

JOHN M. TURNBULL

*(concluded from page 15)**Subject*

Subjects such as printing, medicine, agriculture, mathematics, art, and innumerable others, are all indebted to some collector who has made a survey of their literature possible. An out-of-the-way subject is often profitable. The late Sir Edmund Gosse as a youth commenced accumulating Restoration plays at a time when they were so little valued that dealers finding copies of them amongst parcels bought at sales, burnt them to economize space. Young Gosse valued these from a purely literary point of view, and at that time — but let him talk for himself. In the foreword to a catalogue of part of his library compiled by Mr. E. H. M. Cox, he reminisces in the following delightful strain : —

“With my extremely small resources, the buying of expensive volumes was out of the question, but there was a field open to me fifty years ago which is closed to the poor student to-day. I was particularly led to make an examination of what are called Restoration Plays — that is to say, of the English dramatic literature produced between 1660 and 1700. That span of forty years was remarkably rich in a drama that in Victorian times had scarcely been explored, and that lay under the ban of those who exalted the Elizabethan and Jacobean ages inordinately. The Restoration was supposed to be uniformly lacking in decency and merit. The dramatists were for the most part inedited, and to refer to their text it was needful to procure original or contemporary editions, which were almost without exception in the form of quarto pamphlets. The earliest play I bought, and the beginning of my collection, was a clean tall copy of Southerne's “The Loyal Brother,” of 1682. The prologue and epilogue, though there is nothing to show it, were written by Dryden for this, Southerne's earliest publication. I remember that I had to pay the bookseller half a crown, which I thought extortionate.

Some time elapsed before I began to make a persistent search for plays in the shops of the second-hand booksellers. I think I was really started on my enterprise by going casually into a shop in Soho, where I remarked, with the hunter's excitement, that the counter was heaped with quarto plays of the seventeenth century. I felt like the African traveller who suddenly comes upon a water-hole surrounded by all the beasts of the wilderness drinking together in unity. The explanation of the phenomenon was that the bookseller — I forget his name — had just bought *en bloc* the library of a Mr. John Kershaw, who had apparently indulged a particular fancy for plays. These had been suddenly delivered to the purchaser, who must have bought them like a pig in a poke, for he seemed to know nothing of their relative value, and was only anxious to get rid of them for a percentage of profit.

There were treasures lying in that ignominious heap, and if I had only had in my pocket what a single one of some of those plays would fetch to-day, I might have gone off laden with spoil. There were things lying there which, in all the fifty years since, I have never cast eyes upon again. I emptied my poor purse, however, to its

uttermost penny, and I carried away a goodly parcel, containing, amongst other jewels, the earliest 1664 issue of Sir George Etherege's "The Comical Revenge; or Love in a Tub," of which (I believe) no other copy had at that time been met with. The importance of this play in the history of English drama gave interest to the discovery of its date, which had hitherto been placed in 1668.

With gratitude I recall the kindness of the various booksellers whose premises I haunted; most of them endured with indulgent patience the rummaging of their top-shelves by an unprofitable lad. I recall in particular Mr. Wilson of Great Russell Street, where my very earliest investigations were made. His was a stern, grim figure, calculated to alarm more than to seduce the would-be purchaser, yet he was very affable to me. I remember that Mr. Wilson gave me a piece of advice, at which the book-buyers of the present day will smile. Entering into my passion for plays, he said "Those Restoration dramas of yours will never have the slightest value, but you keep your eye on Massinger and Ford. You may think it extravagant, but I recommend you not to grudge ten shilling apiece for a really fine copy of a first edition of them, or of Shirley or any other of those chaps. They may not be worth it now, but they will be one of these days." This was to me indeed a counsel of perfection, since half a crown was long my limit to outlay; still I did now and then make a plunge not quite so daring as Mr. Wilson's, and bought up a Shirley or a Chapman. My own particular Restoration plays were everywhere abundant enough. Indeed, the volumes of them, bound together in a contemporary calf, had been in mid-Victorian times a drug in the book-market. I think it was Mr. Salkeld who told me that he had made a bonfire of Restoration plays, because they took up so much room, and because not a soul ever bought one. It was the gifts of the Tarquins over again; they began to be desired when they began to be difficult to find.

The name of Salkeld has escaped my pen. It should have come a little later, for I did not find that remarkable bower of dust and beauty, his shop in Red Lion Square, until about 1876. I was taken there by my earliest master in the science of bibliography, the poet John Leicester Warren, long afterwards the third Lord Tabley. He was a book-man without guile, and it was first from him that I learned what book-collecting involved. Warren would think nothing of hanging about Red Lion Square at six in the morning, waiting for Salkeld to take down his shutters. In Warren I first observed the passion of the genuine bibliophil, and I imbibed from him the true spirit of the game. I have seen him physically faint with joy at securing an "Alastor" of 1816, and tears spring to his eyes at the unexpected arrival of a Milton's Poems of 1645. In one of his own poems he celebrates the charms of Red Lion Square and of

Salkeld, solace once of book-men,  
Now beyond all cabs and ken,  
Far removed in realms transpontine,  
Who shall find his haunts again?

Who indeed! and where are the roses of yesteryear?

The premises of Mr. Salkeld were extensive, upstairs and downstairs, and they were lumbered beyond the dreams of the most untidy of bookworms. With great difficulty the visitor penetrated between tables heaped with miscellaneous literature and shelves which bulged with volumes two or three deep. An inner parlour was the haunt of the bibliopole himself, who had cleared one chair and the corner of one table for his practical requirements. Elsewhere chaos reigned, but Mr. Salkeld's memory was wonderful. He would point to a tottering tower of books and say: 'Somewhere at the back of that there's a Giles Fletcher if you want to see it. Got no half-title, though!' Upstairs even the memory of Mr. Salkeld was at fault. Here there was no order, no tables, only piles of books on broken kitchen chairs; and hanging from the ceiling a large open cage of doves. Mr. Salkeld soon gave me his confidence, and I was allowed to rout at my own free will in the upper rooms. But the doves were a trial. Bored with their long seclusion, they used to leave their cage to greet the visitor. In those days the humblest of us wore a silk hat on all occasions. Just as one was stooping to detach a folio from its heap, a dove would make a sudden swoop, and skate wildly on one's hat, which would presently skip off into a corner carrying the hysterical bird upon its rim. Despite the doves and the dirt, many a precious item have I excavated in the garrets at Red Lion Square. There are no such treasure heaps left unsearched to-day in the sophisticated shops of Soho."

De Tabley's rhymed query is rather puzzling, for I discovered old Mr. Salkeld when I was a boy, in the Stockwell Road. His shop there stood back from the road in a little recess, alongside one or two other shops dealing in more prosaic wares. I wonder if the translation took place unknown to Gosse. De Tabley would probably have died before then. In my remembrance Mr. Salkeld lives as a very old man with a long white beard and a skull cap. He once offered me an incunabulum for a pound, when I had only sevenpence to spend. I forget what the book was, but I have been looking out for a similar bargain ever since. Another of my departed booksellers was Bertram Dobell, scholar, poet, and lover of Charles Lamb. Commencing business as a tobacconist in Kentish Town, he was in the habit of exposing a few second-hand books for sale. As the subordinate venture succeeded, he eventually switched to books exclusively, later transferring his activities to a more appropriate quarter of the Town. His business, with several branches in London and the provinces, at present conducted by his sons and grandson, is now one of the best known in the English speaking world. Another scholar bookseller, also a lover of Lamb, was Roger Ingpen, the Shelley authority. He is now also of the past.

The Salkeld type of dealer is now becoming rare. His successors are too orderly, and their shops offer little scope for rummaging. There are a few left, however. When I was in London last, in 1929, I discovered a Salkeld-like shop in one of the streets of that huge parish which is Islington. There was very little floor space inside, and what there was was almost entirely covered with books, piled in towering columns. I asked the proprietor whether he was in the course of removal. "Oh, no", George Dyer-like, he replied, "I simply find this arrangement the most convenient." There was little room for rummaging, and I soon gave up the attempt; and after finding how intimately he knew his peculiarly displayed stock, I stood apart on one tiny island of floor, while he stood on another and dived with unerring accuracy for minor treasures. Asked whether he had any Africana, he truncated one of the pillars, and produced a shabby copy of the first volume of the second edition of Barrow's *Travels*, a presentation copy from Barrow to his Chief, Lord Macartney, which he let me have for five shillings. Next, a copy of Paterson's *Travels*, with the rare coloured botanical plates. Besides these, I got from him first editions of Wordsworth's *Excursion*, and *White Doe*, with a long and interesting inscription by Keats's friend, Benjamin Bailey, addressed to Mrs. Fletcher (Maria Jewsbury), the poetess of the early *Athenaeum*. Also two copies of the first edition of Leigh Hunt's *Lord Byron and some of his Contemporaries*: one in original boards but no plates, the other with no covers, but with all the plates except the frontis-



piece, and annotated contemptuously in a hand that I suspect to be John Gibson Lockhart's. I am now waiting for a copy of the frontispiece to turn up, so as to be able to make up a good composite copy of the book.

### *Grangerising*

Some dealers on acquiring shabby copies of very famous books adopt a practice of breaking them up and selling the leaves singly. This has been done in the case of a Caxton and of a Shakespeare First Folio. There is no harm in it so long as the book concerned is in hopeless condition, but the breaking up of any other condition of book cannot be condoned. A lot of damage was wrought towards the end of the eighteenth and the commencement of the nineteenth centuries by followers of the practice of grangerising or extra-illustrating. James Granger, in 1769, published his *Biographical History of England*, in which was included an extensive catalogue of engraved portraits of the personalities mentioned in the book. Without any direct encouragement from Granger, readers, now first made aware of the multiplicity of engraved portraits of English celebrities that existed, and guided by this catalogue to their provenance, ransacked illustrated works, both current and old, for portraits to insert in favourite works. In due course extra-illustrating rose almost to the dignity of an art. Rare books were ravished of their portraits and topographical plates and the only redeeming feature of the new hobby was the skill with which the harvest was woven into its new environment. One collector lavished no less than £10,000 on illustrating a copy of Clarendon's *History of the Rebellion*. Not content with this relic of her spouse, his widow, after his death, amongst other additions, inserted in it a portrait of James the First which she acquired specially for the purpose at a cost of eighty guineas. Joseph Haslewood, a contemporary of Lamb's, accumulated so large a body of matter for the extra-illustration of Chatterton's *Poems*, that his completed task necessitated the expansion of the three original volumes to eighteen. Within more modern times one enthusiast devoted thirty years to the task of illustrating Horne's *History of Napoleon*. The two original volumes were swollen by the insertion of over 1500 portraits, views, maps, and documents, filched from over 200 different books, into six massive folios, which some ten years ago I saw offered by a West End dealer for £850.

The practice of grangerising accounts for the large number of illustrated books, principally of the eighteenth century, which though in good condition otherwise, lack their illustrations. It was not, however, without its good side, for from it unquestionably emerged the profusely illustrated book of modern times.



With all the refinements and exactingness of sophisticated collecting, I believe that the most affluent collector cherishes in some obscure corner of his library some odd seventeenth century volume in worn calf — some Pope, or *Spectator*, or Zimmerman *On Solitude* — which as a boy he may have picked up at an open stall for a penny. Happy was it in those days to wander with a shilling in one's pocket along Farringdon Road, a mile of whose pavement used to be lined with stalls of every description, every third one a book-stall, and every book-stall pregnant with possibilities. Rummaging amongst the disorderly heaps of some of the barrows for the oldest books that a few pence might buy, when the great appeal was age, what treasures of virtue other than age, must have been rejected :

When I recall the books I might have bought  
 When I was young, on stalls whose piled-up store,  
 Tumultuous, induced me to explore  
 For tattered treasures that I long had sought —  
 When I peruse the catalogues to me brought  
 Six thousand miles by Ocean to my door,  
 And watch the prices maily growing more,  
 I moan the loss of chances brought to naught.  
 Oh, fragrant mustiness, still yours the power  
 To recreate the Farringdonian joy,  
 Of which in boyhood many a charmed hour  
 A meagre sixpence bought, without alloy !  
 'Ere y'are Sir. Penny the vol, from Gower  
 To Pound ! These, pearls. To-day's spoils, but a toy !

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## LIBRARY NOTES AND NEWS

**Pretoria. University Library.** With a donation of £5,000 from Dr. Hans Merensky, a sum of £2,000 from the Pretoria City Council, and £1,000 from an anonymous donor, the Pretoria University Library Building Fund now stands at £13,129 13s. 11d. The recent University fête realised £2,752 17s. 2d. Other donations include £131 collected by the students ; £204 6s. from miscellaneous donors ; £100 from Mr. G. Moerdyk, chairman of the University Council ; £100 from the Standerton Town Council, and £1,841 10s. 9d. from the University teaching staff.

**Rural Libraries.** At the conference of the Transvaal Agricultural Union, held at Pretoria in August, Mr. Borland, Mr. Stirling and Mr. Christie spoke to the Women's Section on the subject of rural libraries. Mr. Borland pointed out that the shortcomings of the Transvaal Rural Library System at present were : Only a small portion of the country was covered by it ; only the general reader was at present catered for, although requests for special books could be dealt with satisfactorily;

and the administrative office at Germiston had to rely too much upon the local voluntary librarian. He recommended that a rural service should be established in each province, and that each provincial library should be provided annually with a sum not less than the equivalent of 1/- per head of the white population of that portion of the province intended to be served.

Mr. Stirling paid a tribute to the work done in the past by the Women's Transvaal Agricultural Union towards the setting up of the rural library scheme. He urged them now to consider what could be done towards securing a reduction in the transport charges on books.

The following resolution was carried by the Conference: "This Conference urges the incoming standing committee to invite members of the rural free library service and the State Library Board to attend a round-table conference to discuss ways and means of extending the rural free library to all districts of the Transvaal, to request the Transvaal Provincial Council for an annual grant to carry on the service as suggested by this conference, and to discuss the findings of the Inter-departmental Library Committee in so far as they concern rural libraries."

**School Libraries. Johannesburg.** The schools' libraries scheme, instituted by the Johannesburg City Council last year, is now working satisfactorily. More than 7,000 books have been bought and sent out to 49 schools. Books have been divided among the schools according to the number of children attending Standards III. to VIII. inclusive. The number of children participating in the scheme is more than 11,600.

The chief librarian, Mr. R. F. Kennedy, states that when he visited some of the schools concerned he found the books were being read and that a new interest had been given to reading. This, he says, is especially pleasing, because the books thus sent out are of a higher literary and educational value than is usual in the libraries of elementary and intermediate schools. Several schools have applied for books for pupils of Standards I. and II., but the funds granted last year, £1,750, have been exhausted.

*Provision for coming year:—* This year a vote of £2,000 has been placed on the municipal estimates, of which £1,500 is for the purchase of new books. It is hoped to extend the scheme during the year to include all children in Government schools in Johannesburg from Standard II. (age 8) upwards. With the money now available, a full lending library service will be available for 14,000 children at a cost of about 3/- a head.

At a refresher course for teachers of technical schools, held at the Witwatersrand Technical College in July, Mr. Borland gave a lecture on school libraries.

**Springs. Public Library.** The Library was made free in August. It is estimated that the new system will cost the Municipality about £1,800 a year. More than 100 new members were enrolled within a few weeks, bringing the total to more than 1,300.

A large donation of books, consisting mostly of official publications, was given to the Library by Sir Robert Kotze, M. P. for Springs.

It is intended to develop the reference section of the Library, and mining companies have been asked to contribute towards the purchase of books for this section, and have responded generously.

**Underground Library.** One of the world's most extraordinary libraries was brought to my notice the other day by a miner, writes a Nigel correspondent. On one of the East Rand mines far below the surface is a library with a stock of some 500 books and magazines of all descriptions. The membership fee takes the form of a contribution to the stock, so that everyone is assured of a wide variety of reading matter for the leisure hour. There is only one rule: "All books to be returned before going to the surface." (*The Star*, 11. June, 1937).

## SELECT LIST OF NEW BOOKS

*compiled by*

P. M. SPEIGHT

*Acting Librarian, Johannesburg Public Library,**and*

D. S. TEASDALE

*Readers' Adviser, Johannesburg Public Library*

## 000 — GENERAL WORKS

- 027     **McColvin, Lionel R.** Libraries and the public.  
Allen & Unwin. 5. 0

A brief but excellent non-technical exposition of the ideal function and workings of public library service. Simple, thorough, enlightening, it is meant for and can be commended to a wider than librarian public.

## 100 — PHILOSOPHY

- 153     **Crawford, Robert P.** Think for yourself. McGraw-Hill. 8. 6

An interesting and stimulating treatment of the art of thinking. The book shows what thinking is, warns against mistaking reverie for thinking, and explains the technique of thinking. It emphasizes the need to-day to guard against accepting our opinions ready-made, and urges the importance of individual and original thinking upon even the most familiar subjects.

- 172.4     **Murry, John Middleton.** The Necessity of pacifism. Cape. 3. 6

A diagnosis of the critical situation around us. Mr. Murry lays his finger on the weak spots in the theory and practice of socialism and urges us to turn from political socialism to the wider concept of human brotherhood. The English vanguard must find its true course from English, not foreign points of reckoning; e. g. from Cromwell and not from Lenin. Finally, the author believes, the implications of a true pacifism are great enough to meet the essential problems of socialism.

## 200 — RELIGION

- 232.9     **Mauriac, François.** Life of Jesus. Hodder. 7. 6

An attempt to avoid the conventional and to stress the sterner aspect of the character and teaching of Jesus. The treatment is necessarily subjective; but this work of a famous French novelist is interesting if highly controversial.

- 266      **Westermann, Diedrich.** Africa and Christianity. 5. 0  
Oxford.  
An exposition of the attitude of the African nation towards the white man and Christianity; of the African's natural beliefs and how they affect his reaction to evangelistic effort; of the consequent problems to be faced by missionaries in Africa; of the comparative appeal of Christianity, Islam and other religions to the African; of the achievements of Christian Missions in Africa; of missionary education; and of native languages in relation to missionary enterprise.

## 300 — SOCIAL SCIENCES

- 325.342      **Cook, E. Thomas, ed.** The Empire in the world. 10. 6  
Oxford.  
The object of this volume is to provide a comprehensive, authoritative, and non-party statement of the need for planned Imperial development, and to describe how such development should and may become of incalculable importance in the future economic progress of the British nation.
- 335.4      **Trotsky, Leon.** The Revolution betrayed: what is the Soviet Union and where is it going? Faber. 12. 6  
A defence of the policy which Trotsky has pursued ever since the death of Lenin, and a vigorous and thorough criticism of the regime of Stalin.
- 364      **Harvey, Richmond.** Prison from within. Allen & 7. 6  
Unwin.  
An intimate and vivid account of experiences in a first offender's penal establishment, examining the prison system in detail and "exposing the utter stupidity of so much of present-day prison methods."

## 500 — NATURAL SCIENCE

- 529      **Wilson, P. W.** The Romance of the calendar. Allen & 10. 6  
Unwin.  
A detailed record of the origin and history of the calendar from ancient times and among many peoples. The movement for reforming the calendar is also discussed.
- 572.968      **Schapera, I., ed.** The Bantu-speaking tribes of South Africa. Routledge. 21. 0  
The contributors to this book include all the foremost authorities on Bantu ethnography and linguistics. Most of the book is devoted to an account of the Bantu as they were before affected by the intrusion of Western civilization. Chapters are included on racial origins, habitat grouping and ethnic history, racial organization, individual development, domestic and communal life, economic activities, government and law, religion and magic, music, traditional literature and language. The four final chapters deal with the extension of European control over the Bantu and the consequent changes in tribal culture.

## SELECT LIST OF NEW BOOKS

91

- 590      **Chapman, Wendell and Lucie.** Wilderness wanderers. Scribners. 12. 6

An American business man and his wife decided to devote themselves to studying and photographing American wild life which had always fascinated them. This is their account, freshly written, of the things they have seen and done. Their photographs, of which more than seventy are produced, are exceptionally good.

### 600 — USEFUL ARTS

- 630.942      **Leigh, Margaret.** Harvest of the moor. Bell. 8. 6

A lively and well-informed account of the labours, pleasures and disappointments of single-handed farming in England. A sequel to *Highland homespun*.

### 700 — FINE ARTS

- 709      **Read, Herbert.** Art and society. Heinemann. 10. 0

A book which contributes a great deal of extremely useful knowledge to the discussion of the nature of the arts. In the first part different forms of primitive art are dealt with on a purely scientific basis and not aesthetically. The second part deals roughly with art since the Renaissance. Art, the author believes, is not a by-product of social development, but is rather one of the original and vital elements which go to form a society.

- 710      **Jekyll, Gertrude.** A Gardener's testament. Country Life. 10. 6

A selection from Miss Jekyll's writings on gardening, originally contributed to periodicals. Subjects dealt with include the history of garden development and design, problems of planning, and water gardening.

### 800 — LITERATURE

- 801      **Caudwell, Christopher.** Illusion and reality. Macmillan. 18. 0

Rejecting purely aesthetic categories, the argument of this extremely important book is the essentially social nature of art. The bias is Marxist, but the questions raised and answered are far too cogent to be neglected by anyone interested in the subject.

- 823.09      **Utter, Robert P. and Gwendolyn Needham.** Pamela's daughters. Lovat Dickson. 15. 0

A lively history of the heroine in fiction since Richardson. Literary heroines of all types have reflected the changing status of women from the "lass with the delicate air" and the maiden of "precious sorrows and divine sensibility" to the modern "lovely woman" who doesn't die or faint or weep, but in T.S. Eliot's words  
smooths her hair with automatic hand and puts a record on the gramophone.

## 900 — HISTORY, BIOGRAPHY AND TRAVEL

- 901 **Casson, Stanley.** Progress and catastrophe. Hamish Hamilton. 7. 6
- The author, an eminent archaeologist, compares the state of our own civilization with that of Rome in the fifth century A. D. and suggests as further examples the Hebrews, the Egyptians and the Mayas. He finds that the most potent causes of the mysterious decay of civilizations are lapse of standards, lack of cohesion leading to wars, and spiritual development advancing beyond, or lagging behind, material achievement. Fascism is regarded as anathema and the only hope for the survival of Western civilization lies in collective security.
- 910.4 **Curle, Richard.** Caravansary and conversation. Cape. 7. 6
- The author of these reminiscences has travelled widely (and wisely) and he calls up many places and many people. Bermuda and Yorkshire, Kentucky and Cornwall — these are some of the places; and a few of the figures sketched are Conrad, Queen Victoria, Amundsen, and Cunningham Grahame.
- 914.6 **Johnstone, Nancy.** Hotel in Spain. Faber. 8. 6
- This is a story of a young couple who escaped from Fleet Street to build and run an hotel in Spain. Despite their inexperience and lack of Spanish, the hotel boomed — until emptied by the Civil War. But they are still there and their story which comes almost up to date gives an interesting picture of the revolution.
- 914.7 **Gide, André.** Return from the U. S. S. R. Secker & Warburg. 2. 6
- The distinguished French author, long a supporter of the Communist regime, still looks with favour on many of its social policies but confesses his deep depression at the spirit of conformity which he found prevailing everywhere in Soviet Russia. He admits that except for Germany there is no country where there is less personal liberty for the individual.
- 914.91 **Auden, W. H. and Louis MacNeice.** Letters from Iceland. Faber. 9. 0
- Byron perfected a light verse stanza; Auden brings it up-to-date to describe Iceland, England and himself. The other letters are to friends who each give a different emphasis to the subject. MacNeice in the carefully feminine disguise of Hetty is most entertaining. A very original travel book and a remarkably good Book Society choice.
- 915.1 **Hedin, Sven.** The Flight of "Big Horse". Macmillan. 21. 6
- Dr. Hedin was sent by the Chinese Government to survey two motor roads to Sinkiang. When he arrived there in 1934 he found that remote region in the throes of a civil war, on which this exciting book sheds light. Many illustrations.
- 915.48 **Flaherty, Frances.** Elephant dance. Faber. 12. 6
- An account of how the writer and her husband, Robert Flaherty, went to India to find a boy who would play the part of Toomai of the Elephants and to take the film "Elephant Boy". Beautiful photographic illustrations.



## SELECT LIST OF NEW BOOKS

93

- 915.69 **Main, Ernest.** Palestine at the cross-roads. Allen & Unwin. 7. 6

An analysis of the present situation, describing the achievements of Jews and the opposition of the Arabs to the continued Jewish immigration. Discusses the place of Palestine and the Eastern Mediterranean in British Imperial policy.

- 916.8 **Akeley, Mary L. Jobe.** Restless jungle. Harrap. 10. 6

In 1935 the author, widow of Carl Akeley, the famous naturalist and explorer, returned alone to Africa to study and photograph wild life in the Kruger National Park and in Portuguese East Africa. She also visited Swazi and Zulu chiefs and learnt much about their customs and manner of living.

- 916.8 **Birkby, Carel.** Zulu journey. Muller. 12. 6

This book is half-way between a scientific survey and the personal experiences and chatter of a globe-trotter. It is a reliable guide to South-East Africa and covers much more than the title indicates, for, besides the Zulus we visit the Swazi, Tonga, Suto, Griqua, and Pondo, and the white people who live in their midst.

- 919.8 **Smolka, H. P.** 40,000 against the Arctic. Hutchinson. 12. 6

A picture of Russia's new polar empire, north of the Arctic Circle in Siberia, now being colonized by 40,000 men and women along 6,000 miles of coast, described by the first non-Soviet journalist to visit it.

## 920—BIOGRAPHY

- 920 **Baldwin, Stanley.** Stanley Baldwin; by Arthur Bryant. Hamish Hamilton. 3. 6

A valedictory tribute to Earl Baldwin and a study in miniature of his life and personality.

- 920 **Belmonte, Juan.** Killer of bulls; the autobiography of a matador as told to M.C. Nogales; transl. from the Spanish by Leslie Charteris. Heinemann. 15. 0

The greatest living matador, who is perhaps also the greatest bull-fighter that ever lived, and the creator of modern bull-fighting, here tells of his romantic life. His devotion to the sport began when he was an urchin in Seville and led him on to his present wealth and fame. The book is provided with an Introduction to the art of bull-fighting written by the Translator; Excellent photographs.

- 920 **Field, Isabel.** This life I've loved. Michael Joseph. 15. 0

Mrs. Field's superficial claim to public interest lies in the fact that she is the daughter of the devoted Mrs. Osbourne who married Robert Louis Stevenson. Her early life was spent in California and France; and after she and her husband had settled in Sydney at Stevenson's wish she went to Vailima and became his amanuensis. Her picture of him is delightful and unaffected and she gives an engaging description of the Vailima household which was like a little kingdom.

- 920      **Lawrence, Thomas Edward.** T. E. Lawrence, by his friends ; ed. by A. W. Lawrence. Cape. 15. 0
- In view of the projected publication of a number of biographical books about T. E. Lawrence, it was decided after his death that, instead of publishing an authorized biography, a number of his friends should be asked to write their own impressions of his many-sided personality. About eighty friends have collaborated : they include Ernest Barker, Winston Churchill, E. M. Forster, Robert Graves, Liddell Hart, Bernard Shaw, and Leonard Woolley.
- 920      **Morton, Rosalie Slaughter.** A woman surgeon. Hale. 15. 0
- Born a daughter of an old Virginia family, the author broke away from the traditional domesticity of the Southern lady to study medicine. After a successful career as a student she visited Germany, France, England, Scandinavia, India and the Far East where she was engaged in strenuous public work. After her marriage she settled in New York. When her husband died she entered into War service in 1916 in France and Serbia. Within recent years she has devoted herself to humanitarian work and now lives in Florida.
- 920      **Mossop, George.** Running the gauntlet. Nelson. 8. 6
- Unusual and attractive reminiscences of a South African pioneer who hunted and trekked in the Transvaal, fought against the impis of Cete-wayo and had many narrow escapes, scouted in the Boer War of 1880, and acted afterwards as a goods transporter. Fascinatingly told with freshness and simplicity.
- 920      **Sandoz, Jules.** Old Jules ; by Mari Sandoz. Chapman. 12. 6
- A biography of the author's father. A young man of some education, he left Switzerland for America and settled in Nebraska. As a pioneer he met appalling difficulties and his life became an intense feud. He was brutal, vindictive, conceited and unscrupulous to a degree, but his nature had its elements of greatness and his overwhelming passion for "building up the country" and his stamina that withstood hardships which broke others go to redeem the cruelty of his nature somewhat. Very realistically written.
- 920      **Waldman, Milton.** Biography of a family. Longmans. 16. 0
- The subjects are Catherine de Medici and her children in a breathless review of the religious and dynastic rivalries of Catherine's period when she lived to see three of her sons on the French throne and to control the destiny of France during one of the bloodiest and most disastrous periods in the country's history. Rather too breezily and imaginatively written but very readable on the whole.
- 940.17      **Belloc, Hilaire.** The Crusade. Cassell. 12. 6
- In this book Mr. Belloc describes the nature and conduct of the great struggle between Christianity and Islam that took place in the twelfth century and is commonly known as the First Crusade. He deals with the strategy of the three main campaigns and his book attempts to answer the old question : Why did Christendom fail against the East and Islam ?

# SELECT LIST OF NEW BOOKS

95

- 940.4 **Brophy, John.** The Five years. Arthur Barker. 15. 0

A conspectus of the Great War designed primarily for study by the successors of those who took part in it and secondarily to refresh the memory of the participants themselves." (Sub-title).

- 940.5 **Hutton, Graham.** Is it peace ? Duckworth. 12. 6

A book worth reading, summarizing the events that have led the world to its present parlous state and presenting an analysis of the policies now being pursued by the major powers, especially Great Britain, whose behaviour the author does not hesitate to criticize adversely. Although an economist, he nevertheless realizes "the relative insignificance of purely economic factors in the formation of foreign policy in the short run."

- 942.055 **Bell, Douglas.** Elizabethan seamen. Longmans. 12. 6

A valuable contribution to the history of the merchant adventurers who charted the course for England's future empire. Lays emphasis on their deeds rather than what they may be supposed to have felt or thought or on the significance or otherwise of their actions.

- 942.07 **Thompson, Gladys Scott.** Life in a noble household. Cape. 12. 6

A picture of everyday life in a 17th century English household. From a collection of account books, papers and letters, the author has re-created life at Woburn Abbey in Bedfordshire and at Bedford House in the Strand in the time of William, fifth Earl and first Duke of Bedford, showing the changes in the social habits of his lifetime.

- 942.23 **Barton, Margaret.** Tunbridge Wells. Faber. 15. 0

The biography of a town which has played a distinctive part in English social life. Its story is shot with passages in the private lives of public people (Mrs. Thrale and Fanny Burney among others) and it throws illumination upon the social history of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

- 950 **Hudson, G. F.** The Far East in world politics. Oxford. 7. 6

The background of the present Far East situation presented for the general reader in the history of international relations from the time, one hundred years ago, when China and Japan were opened to commerce, down to the present United States policy in the Pacific.

## FICTION

### GENERAL

ADAMIC, Louis  
ALLINGTON, Adrian  
BALLOU, Jenny  
BELL, Neil  
BUCHANAN, George  
DEEPING, Warwick  
DELAFIELD, E. M.  
FEINER, Ruth  
FERGUSON, Rachael  
FRASER, Ronald

Cradle of life  
Moss is the stuff  
Spanish prelude  
Testament of Stephen Fane  
Rose Forbes  
Blind man's year  
Nothing is safe  
Sunset at noon  
Alas, poor lady  
A House in the park

(Gollancz)  
(Chatto & Windus)  
(Gollancz)  
(Collins)  
(Constable)  
(Cassell)  
(Macmillan)  
(Harrap)  
(Cape)  
(Cape)

*(General continued)*

HILTON, James	We are not alone	(Macmillan)
HODSON, James Lansdale	Carnival at Blackport	(Gollancz)
JARRETT, Cora	Strange houses	(Heinemann)
LARGE, E. C.	Sugar in the air	(Cape)
MITCHELL, Mary	Decline and fall of a British matron	(Heinemann)
POCOCK, Guy	Stubbs at fifty	(Dent)
RAYMOND, Ernest	The Marsh	(Cassell)
REMARQUE, E. M.	Three comrades	(Hutchinson)
SALE, Richard	Is a ship burning?	(Cassell)
SINCLAIR, Upton	"No Pasaran"	(Laurie)
STAPLEDON, Olaf	Star maker	(Methuen)
STRONG, L. A. G.	The Swift shadow	(Gollancz)
TREVELYAN, G. E.	Two thousand million man-power	(Gollancz)
WELLS, H. G.	Star begotten.	(Chatto & Windus)
WHITCOMB, Catharine	The Grown-ups	(Chatto & Windus)
WILKINS, Vaughan	And so — Victoria	(Cape)

**DETECTIVE STORIES & THRILLERS**

ALLINGHAM, Margery	Dancers in mourning	(Heinemann)
CARR, John Dickson	The Burning court	(Hamish Hamilton)
FARJEON, J. J.	Yellow devil	(Collins)
HUXLEY, Elspeth	Murder at Government House	(Methuen)
INNES, Michael	Hamlet, revenge !	(Gollancz)
KNOX, Ronald A.	Double cross purposes	(Hodder & Stoughton)
MACVICAR, Angus	Flowering death	(Paul)
WHITELAW, David	The Face	(Bles)